



# Mission Report

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- \* **HLI's First REDESSVIDA Congress in Argentina**
- \* **Commentary on Pope Francis' Letter on the Jubilee Year of Mercy**
- \* **HLI Affiliate Updates: Nigeria and Slovakia**
- \* **New HLI Pro-Life Resource: A Four-Part Educational Series on Marriage**

Dear Pro-Life Friend in Christ,

As you're reading this, the World Meeting of Families and the Holy Father's trip to the U.S. has concluded, and the Synod of Bishops on the Family is nearing conclusion, or may have just ended. Due to the time it takes to produce and mail this newsletter, I'm not able to share details or HLI's reactions in this month's issue. In fact, as I'm writing this letter to you, the World Meeting of Families (which I'm attending with several HLI staff) has not yet begun. Please check our website, [www.hli.org](http://www.hli.org), for updates on these events, and look for more information in next month's *Mission Report*.

In this month's newsletter, HLI's Raymond de Souza reports on our first REDESSVIDA Congress held in the country of Argentina. HLI's REDESSVIDA program provides critical pro-life training and resources for priests and seminarians across Latin America. **As we are witnessing the crisis in the Church regarding the understanding and teaching of life and family issues, HLI's pro-life training is more important than ever.**



Fr. Shenan J. Boquet  
President

This issue also features commentary from Msgr. Barreiro on a recent letter from Pope Francis outlining some of the details about the Jubilee Year of Mercy beginning on December 8, 2015 and ending November 20, 2016. In his letter, the Holy Father invites women that have committed an abortion to repent and return to God. We should also continue to pray for the conversion and repentance of doctors, medical staff, and all people involved in committing abortions. I invite you to join HLI's prayer campaign to St. Michael the Archangel for the conversion of abortionists, which we have been praying for many years. You can learn more about this program online at: [www.stmichaelprayercampaign.com](http://www.stmichaelprayercampaign.com).

Please keep HLI's pro-life missionaries, our REDESSVIDA program, and our life-saving mission around the world in your daily prayers. Together, we can, and will, build a Culture of Life!

Yours in Christ and in Our Lady,

Father Shenan J. Boquet  
President, Human Life International

## MISSIONARY TRIP TO ARGENTINA

*By Raymond de Souza, HLI Special Missions Coordinator, August 2015*

Just a few months ago, in August, Human Life International sponsored our 7<sup>th</sup> International REDESSVIDA Congress in San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina to train and equip priests, seminarians, and the lay faithful to understand and combat the many threats to the sanctity of life and the family around the world.

Through HLI's REDESSVIDA program (the Latin American Network of Priests and Seminarians for Life) our national, regional, and international congresses have trained thousands of people across Latin America to defend life from conception until natural death. The main audiences for these congresses are Catholic priests and seminarians. These men can have a great impact in mobilizing communities against the Culture of Death, but many are lacking formation in Life and Family issues and need HLI's training and resources to effectively change the culture.



## FIRST REDESSVIDA CONGRESS IN ARGENTINA

San Miguel de Tucumán (usually called simply Tucumán) is the capital of the Tucumán Province, located in northern Argentina. It is the fifth largest city in Argentina. Dedicated to Saint Michael, a handsome statue of the great Archangel can be seen as one enters the city coming from the airport.

While REDESSVIDA congresses have been held in many countries in Latin America, this was the first time HLI's pro-life missionaries were able to organize this comprehensive pro-life training for priests and seminarians in Argentina, home-country of Pope Francis. And although this was HLI's first major pro-life congress

# HLI's St. Gianna Beretta Molla Guild



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**Thank you!**

here, HLI has had a presence in Argentina for several years under the leadership of HLI Argentina Director Dr. Oscar Botta.

The congress was split into two parts lasting four days: two days of training priests and seminarians and two days training lay community leaders. The opening ceremonies for the congress were presided over by His Excellency Alfredo Zecca, Archbishop of the Diocese of Tucumán, who was happy to host HLI's pro-life training in his diocese.

### **SPREADING THE PRO-LIFE MESSAGE**

Once in Tucumán, the first item on my agenda was a press interview with some major news outlets in Argentina. For these interviews, I was joined by Fr. Juan Carlos, who helps HLI with outreach to priests and seminarians in Latin America, and Nancy Tosi, who works with HLI in providing help with post-abortion healing. As the U.S. is arguably the largest exporter of attacks on Life and Family in the world, I made good use of the opportunity to point out the work of Barack Obama in promoting the Culture of Death to the extent of wishing that God would bless Planned Parenthood—the largest abortion business in the U.S., which kills over 300,000 babies each year.

Before the training began, the congress participants were given a beautiful performance by young musicians of the Youth Symphonic Orchestra of the National University of Tucumán, and another performance by a youth pro-life group by the name of Apostles of Lourdes. The pro-life song they sang, “Let Him Be Born” (Dejalo Nacer), has reportedly become the “signature” song for the young pro-lifers. You can watch a beautiful video and listen to the song online at [https://youtu.be/wq\\_fF9nB\\_DE](https://youtu.be/wq_fF9nB_DE).

HLI Regional Director for Latin America, Mario Rojas, was a main



Mario Rojas presents a thank you award to Archbishop Alfredo Zecca for authorizing the organization of a REDESSVIDA Congress in the diocese of Tucumán.

## **PRO-LIFE MISSION TRIPS AND EVENTS**

Here are a few of our scheduled pro-life mission trips, conferences, and events that could use your prayers to Our Lord for His help in blessing our work to build a Culture of Life:

**October 1-7:** HLI-Sponsored World Prayer Congress for Life in Fatima, Portugal

**October 1-7:** HLI's REDESSVIDA Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**October 4-6:** Pro-Life Mission Trip to Uganda

**October 11-18:** Pro-Life Mission Trip to Zambia

**October 23-November 2:** Pro-Life Mission Trip to Thailand and Vietnam

**October 27-30:** HLI participates in the World Congress of Families IX in Salt Lake City, Utah

**November 27-29:** HLI's 20<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Congress on Faith, Life and Family (ASPAC) in Taiwan

**December 10-15:** Pro-Life Mission Trip to Swaziland

presenter at the congress and made an eloquent speech for the young adults present. Mario also introduced a pre-recorded video message from HLI President, Fr. Shenan Boquet, who was unable to attend, addressing the participants and giving his blessings for the congress.

Fr. Boquet thanked all the participants for recognizing the importance of HLI's REDESSVIDA congress in combating the threats to Life and Family. "No one can be on the sidelines," he said. "We all must be engaged."

"We are seeing societies around the world collapse because they are embracing a secular mentality and are rejecting life, rejecting the family ... it's up to us, it's up to you, to be engaged," he told attendees.

Speaking with Mario, one priest who attended, Fr. Gabriel Barros, IVE, fully embraced Fr. Boquet's message of needing to be engaged to change the culture. Fr. Barros said it was "an obligation [for all priests] to all the souls God has entrusted to us" to receive this pro-life training and work in an active way to defend Life.

## GROUP SESSIONS

In addition to training priests and seminarians, HLI's pro-life missionaries had special training workshops in Argentina for legislators and students.

Mario gave a presentation to members of the Legislature of Tucumán involved in pro-life political work. The focus of the training was on population control, often pushed through under the guise of "reproductive



Although Fr. Boquet was not able to be present at the Congress, he sent a video greeting to participants.

*Continued on page 7...*

## ONLINE NEWS

# WATCH AND SHARE SHOCKING UNDERCOVER VIDEOS

**H**ave you seen the shocking undercover videos exposing the Planned Parenthood baby parts-for-profit scandal?

Through a series of undercover videos as part of their Human Capital project, the Center for Medical Progress is documenting how Planned Parenthood sells the body parts of aborted babies. From the CMP website: "Citizen journalists at CMP spent two-and-a-half years logging thousands of research hours to painstakingly gather hundreds of hours of undercover footage, dozens of eye-witness testimonies, and nearly two hundred pages of primary source documents."

In exposing the illegal and barbaric practice of harvesting aborted baby parts for profit, the videos document the relationship between Planned Parenthood and biotech firms which buy and resell aborted baby body parts for medical research.

Please watch and share all the CMP videos at: [www.hli.org/shockingvideos](http://www.hli.org/shockingvideos)



## HLI Nigeria

**Country Director: Charles Nnagboh**

I recently conducted a pro-life training seminar for young people at St. John the Baptist Parish as part of their annual youth-week activities. This seminar came about at the urging of a seminarian from Pope John Paul II Major Seminary who was doing apostolic work in the parish, and who has been a beneficiary of HLI's Seminarians for Life International formation program.

The seminar featured talks on chastity and the dangers of pre-marital sex, contraceptives, and abortion. Thanks to the generosity of pro-life supporters, I was able to distribute a number of pro-life materials to the participants at no cost. To God be the glory!



## HLI Slovakia (Forum for Life)

**Country Director: Dr. Marcela Dobešová**

Report by PR Manager Dr. Danka Jacečková

In August, around 70 people gathered in front of the Society for Planned Parenthood in Bratislava, Slovakia to protest the sale of body parts of aborted children and to express their solidarity with all those protesting in front of Planned Parenthood locations in the USA and other countries. The protest was organized by HLI Slovakia (Forum for Life), Forum for Public Matters, and Forum of Christian Institutions.

Anna Zaborska, M.D., a member of the European Parliament, challenged doctors and healthcare workers in Slovakia who have not condemned the sale of organs of aborted children: “What guarantee do women and girls have that these people care about their health in the first place, instead of caring about their own career or financial benefits?”

“It’s a coldblooded treatment of human beings that are reduced to mere providers of organs,” added Maria Raucinova from HLI Slovakia. Sponsors of the protest have issued a statement supporting life and human dignity from the moment of conception and appealing to responsible authorities to cancel funding of IPPF activities by Slovak taxpayers. They further invited the representatives of the Slovak office of IPPF to disavow their partner organization in the USA and asked the government of the Slovak Republic to prohibit the trade of organs of aborted children in Slovakia and move against it at the international level.



## On Pope Francis' Letter on the Jubilee Year of Mercy

by Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro

**W**E WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE to His Holiness Pope Francis for his letter on the year of Mercy. He makes valuable and moving considerations on the limitless Mercy of God that is extended to everyone.

At the same time, the faithful have to receive this mercy, which means taking concrete action. To receive this mercy one must open his heart and mind to God in prayer, offer sincere repentance, make a sincere commitment to amend his life, and offer reparations as needed.

One who has personally experienced the infinite mercy of God will not only express his loving gratitude to the Father of all mercies, but will testify to this mercy as well. This testimony can have a great missionary value, as it could bring others to the faith.

We should also express our gratitude to the Holy Father to extend this indulgence to the sick, the home bound and to prisoners.



giulio napoletano / Shutterstock.com

Following the constant teaching of the Church through the centuries, the indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. Regrettably, one of the many teachings of the Church that is not sufficiently taught these days is the obligation in justice and charity to pray for the deceased so that they can be duly purified to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. So here we have a timely reminder on this constant obligation.

The Holy Father should be congratulated for his heartfelt teachings on the horrible tragedy of abortion. He points out very well that “The

tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails.” It is very important, as the Holy Father emphasizes, to give hope to women that have committed an abortion and are prepared to repent and return to God. It is totally true that “The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father.”

The Holy Father should further be commended for granting to all priests the ability during this Jubilee Year to absolve the sin of abortion and to forgive those who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it. With this generous action from Pope Francis we are reminded of the gravity of the sin of abortion in that the faculty to absolve the sin of abortion is reserved to bishops, even as many bishops have justly delegated this faculty to priests in their dioceses. It is important, as the Pope points out, that priests should generously welcome those who have committed this sin, even as they should share with the penitent “a reflection that explains the gravity of the sin committed.”

We note with strong approval the pope’s direction that the priest should indicate with precision “a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father.” This

path in many cases will entail a serious change of lifestyle, avoiding the sins that lead to abortion, taking up a life of prayer and charity with the guidance and assistance of a parish community or other approved Catholic group. At the same time the priest should make all possible efforts to convince the penitent that Christ has truly forgiven her and she should not trouble herself anymore for the sin she has committed. The priest, for the spiritual good of the person who repents, should impose a penance proportional to the sin committed and in harmony with the mercy God offers the penitent.

I am particularly moved and grateful to the Holy Father that he has granted jurisdiction to all priests of the Fraternity of St. Pius X to hear confessions during the Holy Year of Mercy. We should pray that this act of generous understanding of the Vicar of Christ might be the beginning of the solving of all the canonical and pastoral difficulties that still remain with the SSPX. We have to keep in mind that this decision of the Holy Father involves hundreds of priests and will benefit thousands of faithful all over the world. Let us hope and pray that this act of genuine mercy by the Holy Father towards the SSPX should be fully received and imitated by all the bishops of the Catholic Church, welcoming with open arms all the faithful that want to receive the sacraments and live their spiritual life in accordance with the Extraordinary Form of the Latin Rite.



**Raymond de Souza presenting a workshop on defending the Faith.**

rights.” Argentina does protect the right to life “in general, from the moment of conception,” but those protections are slowly being eroded.

For example, in 2012, Argentina’s Supreme Court ruled that abortion in cases of rape should be legal. As we’ve seen happen many times around the world, once the “hard cases” for abortion are accepted and made legal (rape, incest, “life of the mother”) it’s not long until abortion-on-demand is legalized.

While Mario was training legislators, I went with Nancy Tosi to address some 450 students at a local Catholic school. Nancy gave a superb presentation on the importance of chastity, and the many harms of accepting the pop culture argument that premarital sex is “no big deal.”

I spoke to the students about moral relativism and how dangerous it is when a young person has no objective values. The influence of the world can easily lead young people to become involved in activities that will bring about frustration, depression, unhappiness, and sometimes even suicide. I closed with words about the roles of the authentic Catholic young man and woman, the responsibility and beauty of chastity, and the reality of abortion.

The school principal was very impressed with both presentation, and willingly gave me his contact information to receive more resources from HLI.

### **FURTHER IMPACT**

During the mission to Argentina, I was very happy to meet a faithful evangelist who was totally blind, Mr. Jose Serafin Ponte, who asked for resources so that he could translate them into Braille! He has already translated a dozen papal encyclicals into Braille to spread the Gospel among the blind. Incredible!

A brief conversation also took place with a young lady, Luz

Maria de Zabalina, who is an enthusiastic activist in pro-life work among the youth. She also asked me to provide materials in Spanish that she could distribute. At the end of the conversation, I received an invitation from Jeanine, one of the three ladies who leads the pro-life youth group Apostles of Lourdes, to return to Tucumán to lead more training and retreats for the youth.

## CONCLUSION

When the 7<sup>th</sup> International REDESSVIDA Congress came to an end, Mario presented a token of thanks to Fr. Marcelo Barrionuevo, Vicar of Faith and Culture for the Archdiocese of Tucumán, and the lay pro-life leaders who helped organized the congress. The “Tucumán Proclamation” was read by Fr. Marcelo Barrionuevo at the close of the congress. It highlighted the truth that “Life is a gift from God” and expressed the urgent need for continued pro-life training of seminarians, priests, and laity.

It will require a great effort of prayer, formation, and action to raise new pro-life leaders to guide the faithful towards the final victory. With the financial support and prayers of the HLI Family, our pro-life missionaries will continue the life-saving mission of building a Culture of Life. Please continue to pray for HLI’s REDESSVIDA program and for all of our pro-life efforts around the world!

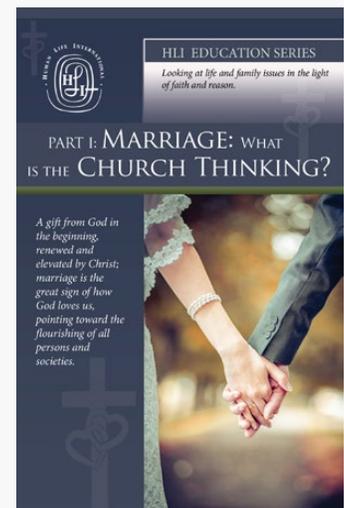
## DONATE \$53 OR MORE TO HLI THIS MONTH AND GET OUR LATEST PRO-LIFE RESOURCE!

This month, when you donate \$53 or more to support HLI’s life-saving mission, you’ll receive our latest pro-life educational resource: ***Marriage: What is the Church Thinking?*** This is the first part of a 4-part series on marriage. (See next month’s *Mission Report* for Part II.)

A gift from God in the beginning, renewed and elevated by Christ, marriage is the great sign of how God loves us, pointing toward the flourishing of all persons and societies.

Men and women were created with complete, but at the same time complementary, natures. In a very real way, men and women were made for each other in both nature and spirit. The necessity for love and unity is built into our nature as men and women, and it is intimately connected with the fruitfulness of family life. Indeed, as we shall see, the sacramental union towards which men and women are called is inseparable from the manifestation of that very love’s fruitfulness: children and the creation of society’s most basic unit, the family.

**Please send your gift of \$53 or more to HLI today,** and we’ll ship you this new pro-life resource!



***Marriage: What is the Church Thinking?* is this month’s pro-life educational resource when you give \$53 or more!**